

**CITIZENS' INDEPENDENT TRANSPORTATION TRUST (CITT)**

**Project Review Committee**

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Miami Dade College North Campus

11380 NW 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue

M.J. Taylor Lounge, Building 4000

Room 4207, Second Floor

6:00 p.m.

*Summary of Minutes*

**CITT MEMBERS PRESENT:**

LtCol Antonio Colmenares, Chairman

Marc Buoniconti

Hon. John Cosgrove

Franklin Kelly

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Hilda Fernandez, OCITT Executive Director

Patty David, OCITT

Joanna Santiago, OCITT

Daniel J. Alfonso, MDT

Pepe Valdes, OCITT

Hannie Woodson, MDT

Luis Linares, OCITT

Daniel Holder, Director, ADA

Jeff Geimes, North Miami

Joyson Taylor, Student

Eric Soroka, City of Aventura

Frank Hernandez, CTAC

Naomi Wright, CTAC

Michelle Brown, MDT

Diana Gonzalez, MDT

Roosevelt Bradley, Director, MDT

Bob Pearsall, MDT

Michael DeCossio, MDT

Ruby Adams, MDT

Terry Grant, MDT

Jose Guerra, MDT

Bonnie Todd, MDT

Cathy Lewis, MDT

Clinton Forbes, MDT

Amir Shafi, City of Opalocka

LtCol Colmenares, Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked that the agenda be taken out of order with Item No. 6, "Municipal Presentations", due to a lack of a quorum and the attendance of the City Manager from Aventura, Eric Soroka, in respect to an invitation from the committee.

## **PRESENTATION – CITY OF AVENTURA**

Mr. Soroka presented a power point overhead: "City of Aventura Transit Surtax Projects" (copy of the presentation was distributed). He talked about the services that are being funded by the surtax proceeds. The Aventura Advantage shuttle bus service began operating in January of 1999 and served over 348,000 riders over the last 5 years. The shuttle bus service is free and it was funded in the past by the general fund. The transit service improvements that are taking place with the surtax funds being utilized are the following:

- In 2003, new service contract awarded that upgraded routes and buses.
- Effective March 1, 2003, expanded service hours on all routes from 5:20 pm to 6:20 pm.
- Effective March 1, 2003, increased service hours one night a week to 9:00 pm.
- Effective August 1, 2003, added new route to split another route to address and improve frequency of service issues.
- Total annual cost for services enhancements over year 2000, funded by surtax is \$194,000. Total cost of transit services is \$494,000.
- Since the implementation of the improvements, ridership has increased from 6,800 a month to over 8,000 a month.

In the spring of 2004, the City will launch a Traffic Video Monitoring Program, which will utilize cameras at key intersections in the city. The cameras will be monitored at the Police dispatcher Center. In addition, road improvements and resurfacing projects will include the following:

- 2003/04 County Club Drive - \$280,000
- 2004/05 NE 20<sup>th</sup> Street - \$370,000
- 2005/06 Aventura Blvd. - \$240,000
- 2006/07 Yacht Club Drive - \$250,000

Also, bus shelters will be improved. The members thanked Mr. Soroka for his presentation.

## **ROLL CALL**

LtCol Colmenares announced the presence of a quorum for the Project Review Committee meeting at 6:30 p.m.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

LtCol Colmenares noted that Item No. 7A, "Bus Service Improvement Approval Process," will be deferred at the request of Dr. Carlos Bonzon from the County Manager's office. LtCol Colmenares requested a motion to approve the agenda.

Mr. Buoniconti moved approval; seconded by Mr. Kelly and carried without dissent.

### **CITIZEN'S COMMENTS**

Daniel Holder, Director, Office of ADA Coordination, stressed the importance for the transit system to be accessible to all the residents of Miami Dade County. The CITT needs to take positive action on how it distributes funds in making sure that programs include access for people with disabilities. There is a Special Transportation System (STS) and for some people that may be the only solution for transportation, but there are many people with disabilities who could use the bus system and STS is not equivalent to the bus systems. There are many problems with STS and the bus system is more desirable for those people who can use it. There are a number of issues that are preventing disabled people from using the bus system. For example, what is considered an accessible bus route or what is being advertised as an accessible bus route is not true. Those are routes that have all buses with lift on them, but it does not mean that all the bus stops are accessible to people with disabilities. A disabled person may have access to get on a bus, however, may not be able to get off the bus at the desired stop.

Mr. Cosgrove asked if there was a specific list of issues that needed to be addressed by MDT. Mr. Buoniconti stated that the MDT-ADA Coordinator will be making a presentation at the next Compliance and Oversight Committee meeting and asked staff to add Mr. Holder to the agenda as well. Mr. Holder responded that he has a list of bus stops that are not accessible Countywide. In addition, the Commission on Disabilities has issued an opinion that was forwarded to the CITT in the past. The list that identifies the barriers in the bus stops, the County has committed to making them accessible in unincorporated Dade County; however, it cannot do anything in the municipalities. The Commission on Disabilities requests that when CITT reviews the proposals from the municipalities that it require them to make those bus stops accessible and review the curve cuts before new projects are implemented.

Mr. Cosgrove asked Mr. Holder to provide OCITT staff with a copy of the list. The issue can be discussed at the Compliance & Oversight Committee for further review and action. Staff can then break it out for the various municipalities. Mr. Holder responded that MDT has a copy of the list too.

Naomi Wright, CTAC member, commented that she does not believe that the issue of ADA was addressed in the PTP; therefore, the CITT should not get involved with the issue, especially since it has other issues to address.

LtCol Colmenares responded that the ADA issue is addressed in the PTP Exhibit 1, Page 127, first paragraph, under Public Works.

## **COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS**

None

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – DECEMBER 3, 2003**

LtCol Colmenares requested a motion to approve the December 3, 2003, minutes. Mr. Buoniconti moved approval; seconded by Mr. Kelly and carried without dissent.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **8 A – B RESOLUTION BY THE CITT APPROVING ACTION OF THE BCC OF AWARDING CONTRACT TA02-MPR & CONTRACT NO. TA99-SOS).**

Mr. Bradley reported that under the PTP Exhibit I it states “Expands Transit’s public information program through enhanced marketing and advertising”. Since the implementation of the PTP, a lot has taken place and MDT needs to insure that the information is given to the public. The public needs to be kept informed of the new services already implemented and what new services are forthcoming. Mr. Michael DeCossio, Chief, Marketing MDT, reported that at the direction of the County Manager, a “Proposed Transportation Plan” has been put together. MDT has identified projects that are PTP funded. A new logo for those projects is being developed. Also, a mascot for the children is being created to begin to educate the children on public transportation and introduce them to some of the projects that will be completed by 2012. Radio commercials will begin running July 1, 2004, highlighting the different benefits of the PTP (a schedule is available). In addition, talk shows have been scheduled where there will be public interaction. All transit advertisements will be utilized.

Mr. Buoniconti asked what the current marketing budget is for the MDT and how much is added for the PTP projects. Mr. Bradley stated that last year’s budget totaled \$140,000. There was another component of the Office of Public Transportation Management, which spends \$500,000, for a total of \$600,000. Both contracts have a 4-year contract with a ceiling of \$2 million. The monies will be used to promote PTP projects only. MDT has been criticized for not informing the public of the improvements. LtCol Colmenares stated the expenditure for marketing last year totaled \$1.2 million. Mr. DeCossio stated that the amount included the publications for the 91 bus routes. LtCol Colmenares stated that the MDT has budgeted \$122,000 for 2003, but the actual expense is \$1.2 million. He recommended that the correct number be reflected.

Ms. Fernandez added that the Department of Business Development has reviewed the contracts.

LtCol Colmenares requested a motion to approve Items 8 A –B with a favorable recommendation. The motion was approved by Mr. Cosgrove; seconded by Mr. Kelly and carried without dissent.

**8 C RESOLUTION BY THE CITT APPROVING THE ACTION OF THE MIAMI DADE BCC AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO CONTRACT TA99-S0S WITH THE WACKENHUT CORP FOR PROVISIONS OF SECURITY OFFICER SERVICES AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MANAGER THE EXERCISE CANCELLATION PROVISIONS CONTAINED THEREIN**

Ms. Fernandez stated that it is recommended that the committee approve the action take by the BCC authorizing the execution of Amendment No. 1, to contract with the Wackenhut Corporation. It is the first change order and first amendment. It increases the ceiling to allow covering expenses associated with increase security costs associated with 9/11 and costs associated with the implementation of the PTP. Copies of questions/answers were included in your package detailing those expenses. Clinton Forbes, Assistant Director, MDT, stated that the Wackenhut Contract was reconsidered for two reasons by the BCC February 2, 2004. The first error was in the amount \$59,400; the correct amount is \$57,800 and an amendment to the resolution to reflect the funding source. Mr. Cosgrove questioned the increase in security and asked if MDT received any federal grants from Homeland Security. Mr. Bradley responded that MDT did apply for the Homeland Security grant and was awarded a grant for \$900,000, but it was for capital projects, which was used for an Access Control System. Mr. Bradley stated that the \$15 million is not an increase in the security budget, but rather a transfer of the guards. From the \$15 million, \$2.7 million is for PTP and \$1 million is for the Metrorail services. It is a contract ceiling for the term of the Wackenhut Contract that will expires November 2004. It does not necessarily mean that all those funds will be utilized. Mr. Cosgrove clarified that the PTP portion is \$2.7 million and the remaining is coming from the General Fund. Ms. Bonnie Todd, Chief, Safety and Security, MDT, responded it is \$2.7 million per year for a total of \$4.5 million for the remaining 18 months of service. Mr. Cosgrove said he would approve the item, however, would expect to review a Performance Based Budget. Mr. Buoniconti asked if there was a way to separate the amount used for the 24-hour increase. Ms. Todd responded that for Metrorail it is an annual cost of \$1.3 million and for the Metromover \$146,000 and Bus \$1.1 million and total equipment is \$170,000 for a total of \$2.7. Mr. Cosgrove noted that the \$14.8 million is a ceiling. MDT does not need to spend the money if it is not needed. When CITT approves a multi-year contract with a ceiling or without a ceiling, the CITT budget process is going to be annual. A five-year plan will be reviewed yearly. If the performance does not meet expectations action will be taken at that time.

LtCol Colmenares requested a motion to approve the Item No. 8C. A motion was made by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Buoniconti and carried without dissent.

**8 – D RESOLUTION APPROVING A FIVE-YEAR SCHEDULE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PEOPLE’S TRANSPORTATION PLAN BUS SERVICE ACTION PLAN AND AMENDING THE PTP TO REFLECT SUCH ACTION.**

Ms. Fernandez stated that MDT developed a Five-year Plan for the implementation of PTP bus service improvements. Last year, the County decided to accelerate the PTP bus service improvements and adopted a three-year implementation plan. Although it was always anticipated that the bus service improvements would be implemented in a five-year period as it is stated in the Ordinance 02-0116. This three-year implementation plan was approved by the CITT on June 23, 2003. The BCC approved an amendment to the PTP on September 9, 2003, to reflect the three-year bus service improvements schedule. In December 2003, it was determined by the County that the three-year implementation was negatively impacting MDT’s budget and it was necessary to revert to the original five-year plan. The only change made was Bus Route 91 and instead of being listed by month, the routes are listed by year.

Mr. Cosgrove added that Mr. Forbes pointed out few errors that the BCC has changed that were not reflected in the CITT package. He then move to approve the errors that had been identified in the presentation and were corrected in the County’s resolution and so amended in the resolution adopted, so that it will be consistent and technically correct. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kelly and carried without dissent.

LtCol Colmenares requested a motion to approve the Five-Year Bus Service Improvements Action Plan. Mr. Cosgrove moved approval; seconded by Mr. Kelly and carried without dissent.

**8 - E RESOLUTION BY CITT DISCONTINUING OVERNIGHT METRORAIL SERVICE AT SELECT STATIONS AND AMENDING THE PTP TO MODIFY 24-HOUR METRORAIL SERVICE.**

Ms. Fernandez informed the committee that as part of the PTP commitment, MDT implemented 24-hour service on Metrorail and Metromover. In addition, overnight bus service was also extended from 2 routes to 13 routes to compliment the 24-hour service. MDT is recommending discontinuing the 24-hour service from 1 – 5:00 am at 11 Metrorail stations because of low ridership. (copy of the memo and MDT report was distributed). LtCol Colmenares asked if that decision should wait until the marketing study has been completed.

Mr. Bradley responded a marketing study had not been done however, it was determined that the ridership would not increase from the hours of 1:00-5:00 am. The reason is employees who work the 3 – 11 pm shift will ride the train at 12:00 am or 1:00 am. If a rider needs to be at work at 11:00 pm, it will not cause them a problem because the system will not shutdown until 1:00 a.m. It has been

closely reviewed and what is being recommended this evening is to eliminate overnight service to all 22 stations. Metrorail and Metromover will be provided for special events. Mr. Cosgrove stated that the 24-hour service could be added back if there was a public demand for it. Mr. Bob Pearsall, MDT, added that the 250 riders would have bus service available.

Mr. Buoniconti moved to approve the elimination of the 22 overnight Metrorail and Metromover stations as a substitute to the amendment, seconded by Mr. Kelly and carried without dissent. Ms. Fernandez asked when would the service be eliminated; Mr. Bradley responded in April 2004.

Michelle Brown, MDT, clarified that in the current fiscal year 2004, the total savings for five months is approximately \$1.7 million. In the Pro Forma it was funded for the current fiscal year, however, MDT assumed that it would be discontinued.

### **CITIZEN'S COMMENTS**

Frank Hernandez, Chairman, CTAC, commented that cutting back the overnight service should have a positive spin and the public should be informed of the reasons why the service is being eliminated.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

LtCol Colmenares announced that on February 13, 2004, he will be making a site visit to the City of Hialeah to review its PTP projects and any member who would like to attend is welcomed.

Ms. Fernandez asked the members who sit on other committees who will be reviewing the same contracts to please bring them to the meetings to eliminate the duplication of the copies. Also, in anticipation of the approval of the marketing contracts, staff has been directed to develop an outline for a work order to access the service to develop a marketing strategy for the CITT. LtCol asked Mr. Bradley to work with OCITT staff on scheduling a marketing workshop and invite the various transit agencies to participate.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The Project Review Committee meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.